(Practitioner's Docket No. IPAT-98897/BC1-0046)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~ method of claim ~~7~~17, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) has a bismuth content of from 56 to 60% by weight.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the binder (A) comprises groups convertible to cationic groups.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~method of claim 19, wherein the reactive functional groups comprise hydroxyl groups.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~method of claim 19, wherein the complementary reactive functional groups comprise blocked isocyanate groups.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~method of claim 19, comprising a crosslinking agent (B) comprising a blocked polyisocyanate.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~method of claim 19, further comprising at least one additive (D).

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~method of claim 139, wherein the additive (D) is a pigment.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~method of claim 14, wherein the pigments (D) are selected from the group consisting of color pigments, effect pigments, electrically conductive pigments, magnetically shielding pigments, fluorescent pigments, extender pigments, and anticorrosion pigments, are organic and inorganic.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~method ~~of~~ claim ~~16~~19, wherein the bismuth carboxylate is selected from the group consisting of bismuth ethylhexanoate, bismuth subsalicylate, and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing.

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A method of providing bacterial resistance to an electrochemical material, said method comprising

adding a bactericide to an electrocoat material,

wherein

(1.) the bactericide comprises a bismuth carboxylate formed from at least one of aromatic carboxylic acids or monofunctional aliphatic carboxylic acids, and

(2.) the electrocoat material comprises

(A) at least one crosslinking binder comprising groups convertible to cationic or anionic groups and reactive functional groups able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions

(i) with themselves,

(ii) with complementary reactive functional groups in a self-crosslinking binder, or

(iii) with complementary reactive functional groups present in an optional crosslinking agent (B), and

(B) optionally, at least one crosslinking agent comprising complementary reactive functional groups.